

# Re: Happy Monday (Or ... yet another Twining/Normandy email)

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City Clerk Agenda

To: City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Cc: Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>;

Maher Mayor and Honorable City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the Twining Normandy project. As a member of the C2 committee I endeavored to help put Central Square on a path ahead of development, and though that effort was derailed by campaign rhetoric, a concerted misinformation campaign by a group calling themselves the Cambridge Residents Alliance, and a lack of general resolve; I am pleased that this developer has kept true to the vision 21 volunteers, business owners, developers, parents and residents set out on.

It is no surprise to me that the same special interests continue their campaign of misinformation and the two councilors that serve them continue to fuel the fire of discontent. I wonder how councilor Carlone would analogize C2 now given that he paid no small part in its delay by suggesting it was akin to Pearl Harbor. Further I wonder what legal stance the developers have been given in light of the lofty ethical display at the last ordinance committee meeting wherein Carlone offered his answer to what Central Square should look like. It seems a very fine ethical line has been crossed when a municipal employee, a professional planner who has a deep history with group currently before a committee he co-chairs, offers a path seemingly to say either "this" or nothing. What connection exists between that proposal and the CRA who now touts it as if it were a real option? Well it certainly isn't real and if the people involved in its creation had spent as much time adding their voice to C2 we'd all be unified and not quibbling over a few stories and we'd have the plan they continually agonize over.

I'm tired of these distractions, I've been a property owner in Central Square for such a short time and already had to defend myself from two down zoning attempts by this group. Which is why I ask the remaining seven councilors to please give Central Square its due. Recognize that there existed a democratic multi-year process that outlined the path to restoring Central Square. Approve this project and you are facilitating the realization of our work and the democratic process we should all defend.

It is no coincidence that we are also discussing things like "Linkage" in tandem to the zoning debate currently at hand. I ask this council to consider the math, just the math, associated with what we tax commercial developments with versus what residential buildings must contend with. This developer is offering 47 affordable units, imagine the cost of a 47 unit building, brand new and the cost of such a building. Even using my conservative methods of financing I get a value of no less than \$28 million. Now do the same thing for a commercial structure, at 55' so we don't offend the distractors, even at the \$50-100 some candidates sold their base to get elected it doesn't get to a fraction of the value and it is no contest at the reasonable \$10-12 we are hearing from actual experts. Lose height, and lose affordable units... its clear as day. I don't hear these distractors talking about the areas of Cambridge that don't have any affordable housing, but that's a conversation for a later day.

Finally I ask that you approve this petition, because Central Square needs you to. Businesses slog by hoping to survive the next year or the winter drag. I always hear people clamoring for local businesses but rarely do I see the same folks supporting them. We need bodies in Central Square, people actually living here, not the office park with dangerous social issues that it currently has become. The city has done a herculean effort to maintain the upward momentum of Central Square, but only this council can unlock its potential. So please, support this petition, give us the tools we need to create and restore the landscape of Central Square, and squelch the distraction and voices of those who'd protect their own backyards under false slogans and misinformation.

Good Luck,

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